

AUGUST 2009 PRESS RELEASES

For immediate release: Aug 05, 2009
Posted by: [DHS]
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Victims of Severe Weather Urged to Report Damage

Toll-Free Number Now Available

INDIANAPOLIS – Hoosiers who sustained damage caused by severe weather, including wind and flooding beginning August 4 are urged to report damage online or by calling a toll free number.

The number (866-210-1925) is staffed from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EST through Tuesday, August 18, 2009. Damage reports also may be made online via the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website at www.in.gov/dhs.

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

Individuals calling will not be in conversation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Information will be used to help local emergency management agencies and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security preliminarily assess damage to determine if federal assistance can be pursued. This is one of eight steps that must be taken to decide if we are eligible for federal assistance. Below are the eight steps of the declaration process.

THIS REPORT IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ANY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Declaration Process

When a disaster occurs, the following steps are followed:

Step 1. Local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations, and other private interest groups provide emergency assistance required to meet immediate human needs and restore essential services vital to public health and safety.

Step 2. At the same time, preliminary damage and impact information is gathered by local government and emergency officials and conveyed to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Emergency Operation Center.

Step 3. If necessary, the Governor declares a state of emergency and invokes the state's emergency plan to augment individual and public needs as required, including the use of the National Guard's military resources.

Step 4. When the state determines that the recovery appears to be beyond these combined resources, a request for FEMA to conduct a preliminary damage assessment is made.

Step 5. FEMA personnel from the regional office responsible for the area where the disaster occurred are deployed and join state and local representatives to conduct joint damage assessments and submit the results to the Governor's office.

Step 6. If the state judges that this survey data indicates full recovery is beyond available capabilities, the Governor submits a written request to the President through FEMA's regional office asking that federal aid be provided under a major disaster or emergency declaration.

Step 7. Following a FEMA regional and national office review of the request and findings of the joint damage survey, the Agency's Director provides the President with an analysis of the disaster conditions and a recommendation course of action.

Step 8. From this information the President declares a major disaster or emergency exists in the state, or FEMA advises the Governor of a denial of the request.

Disaster Declaration Process Brochure [\(view\)](#)

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For immediate release: Aug 21, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

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Extending Reporting Deadline Yields 200 More Damage Reports

Teams in Southern Indiana Counties to Verify Extent of Damage

As a result of extending the deadline to report damage caused by severe weather August 4, more than 200 more reports have been received by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Damage reports will be accepted until 5 p.m. today by calling the toll free number (866-210-1925). Damage reports also may be made online via the IDHS website at www.in.gov/dhs.

IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott urges affected individuals to make sure they have reported all damage. "We understand this is a very difficult time for anyone trying to recover from the storms earlier this month. Right now, reporting the damage is one of the best ways to support the recovery process."

Twelve evaluation teams, each consisting of state and local members, have been deployed in Clark and Floyd counties. Teams are currently reviewing the newly reported damage, as well as looking for any additional damage still unreported in the immediate vicinity. Director of Recovery and Mitigation, Phil Brown, indicated the teams are trying to "leave no stone unturned" in looking for enough damage to reach the threshold necessary for federal assistance.

Some disaster victims may not be calling in the belief that they will not qualify for federal disaster assistance if it becomes available. However, because relief assistance is granted on a case by case basis, individuals should not make assumptions based on the experiences of others.

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

Individuals calling will not be in conversation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Information will be used to help local emergency management agencies and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security preliminarily assess damage to determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

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For immediate release: Aug 25, 2009
Posted by: [DHS]
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FEMA and SBA to Join Damage Assessment Efforts in Southern and Central Indiana

Joint preliminary damage assessments will begin Wednesday morning for seven counties in Southern and Central Indiana that sustained damage from severe storms and flash flooding that began August 4.

Teams will include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and local emergency management agency representatives. This is step 5 of the 8 steps in the declaration process (see list below). The counties are Brown, Clark, Floyd, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush. Assessments will begin in Clarke and Floyd counties. Teams will move to other counties as quickly as possible, while accurately assessing the scope of damage.

The joint assessments are used to determine the magnitude and impact of damage. The results will be used to determine if federal assistance should be requested.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

The Declaration Process

When a disaster occurs, the following steps are followed:

Step 1. Local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations, and other private interest groups provide emergency assistance required to meet immediate human needs and restore essential services vital to public health and safety.

Step 2. At the same time, preliminary damage and impact information is gathered by local government and emergency officials and conveyed to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Emergency Operation Center.

Step 3. If necessary, the Governor declares a state of emergency and invokes the state's emergency plan to augment individual and public needs as required, including the use of the National Guard's military resources.

Step 4. When the state determines that the recovery appears to be beyond these combined resources, a request for FEMA to conduct a preliminary damage assessment is made.

Step 5. FEMA personnel from the regional office responsible for the area where the disaster occurred are deployed and join state and local representatives to conduct joint damage assessments and submit the results to the Governor's office.

Step 6. If the state judges that this survey data indicates full recovery is beyond available capabilities, the Governor submits a written request to the President through

FEMA's regional office asking that federal aid be provided under a major disaster or emergency declaration.

Step 7. Following a FEMA regional and national office review of the request and findings of the joint damage survey, the Agency's Director provides the President with an analysis of the disaster conditions and a recommendation course of action.

Step 8. From this information the President declares a major disaster or emergency exists in the state, or FEMA advises the Governor of a denial of the request.

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For immediate release: Aug 28, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

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Franklin County Added to Damage Inspection List

Franklin County has been added to the list of joint preliminary damage assessments for counties in Southern and Central Indiana that sustained damage from severe storms and flash flooding that began August 4.

Inspection teams will be in Franklin, Marion and Rush counties today. Teams will include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and local emergency management agency representatives.

The joint assessments are used to determine the magnitude and impact of damage. The results will be used to determine if federal assistance should be requested.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

This is step 5 of the 8 steps in the declaration process (see list below). The counties on the list for damage inspection are Brown, Clark, Floyd, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush. Assessments began in Clarke and Floyd counties. Teams are moving as quickly as possible, while accurately assessing the scope of damage.

The Declaration Process

When a disaster occurs, the following steps are followed:

Step 1. Local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations, and other private interest groups provide emergency assistance required

to meet immediate human needs and restore essential services vital to public health and safety.

Step 2. At the same time, preliminary damage and impact information is gathered by local government and emergency officials and conveyed to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Emergency Operation Center.

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Step 7. Following a FEMA regional and national office review of the request and findings of the joint damage survey, the Agency's Director provides the President with an analysis of the disaster conditions and a recommendation course of action.

Step 8. From this information the President declares a major disaster or emergency exists in the state, or FEMA advises the Governor of a denial of the request

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Governor Daniels Requests SBA Loan Assistance for Porter County

Individuals, Businesses, Private Non Profits Could Apply If Granted

INDIANAPOLIS (August 28, 2008) – Gov. Mitch Daniels has requested U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan assistance for Porter County as a result of serious damage sustained to homes and businesses from severe storms and a tornado August 19.

The amount of damage in Porter County did not meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines for a presidential disaster declaration.

SBA provides low interest, long term loans to individuals, businesses and private non-profit organizations in a declared disaster area for losses not fully covered by insurance. Loans can include funds for physical losses or to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

The disaster loan program is the only form of SBA assistance not limited to small businesses.

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